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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Ray to Knock Out Hijackers Dropped

By Jack Anderson

Guerrillas and Dope

Intelligence reports charge

that the Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon are hampering U.S. efforts to cut off the illegal flow of heroin and hashish from the Mideast to America.

"Turkish opium and morphine base is smuggled into Lebanon," says one report, "directly or through Syria."

From Lebanon, some shipments are routed to South America, others to Rotterdam for transshipment to the United States.

It's difficult to stop the dope smuggling out of Lebanon, suggests another classified document, because "internal security and the presence of about 30,000 armed guerrillas in the country pose a major threat to the government.

"The police are restrained from proceeding against the hashish production and trafficking in the Baalbeck area as there is strong parliamentary involvement in the traffic," the report adds.

In all fairness, the harassed Lebanese government has tried to control the Palestinians. But William Buffum, the American ambassador, has pointed out that "the Lebanese authorities have not dared to set foot in any of the country's 15 refugee camps for the past two years."

As evidence of the trouble the guerrillas are causing in Lebanon, the Central Intelligence Agency has summarized

the Palestinian offenses, notably:

"A. Customs evasion, non-payment of postal and telephone dues, flouting of vehicles registration regulations.

"B. The presence in refugee camps of large colonies of alien squatters.

"C. Refusal by individuals to comply with court orders, pay fines or answer summonses, under the protection both of the camp police and of their fedayeen aliases.

"D. Seizure and occupation of land outside the defined camp boundaries.

"E. Specific incidents of ill-discipline."

Reports also persist that the Palestinian terrorists are actually raising their arms money by smuggling dope. The intelligence data in our hands, however, fails to pin down this charge.

The United States, meanwhile, has brought quiet pressure upon the Lebanese authorities to crack down on the smuggling. Although they may be somewhat helpless to prevent it, the classified documents recommend as a last resort that the United States "expose Lebanon"—one of our few friends in the Arab sphere — "in the world press as source and transshipment country for hashish and opiates respectively."

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Arabs Are Hardest Hit In U.S. Visa Screening

In a program of unprecedented stringency that hits directly at Arabs regardless of nationality, the United States has instituted a screening operation designed to deny visas to anyone with any possible links to international terrorist activities.

Since Sept. 27 all foreign travelers, including those transiting the United States must have visas. In a series of cables sent to U.S. embassies in September, Secretary of State William P. Rogers outlined the operation, which includes a five-day waiting period for Arab aliens seeking U.S. visas. There is a similar waiting period for other persons in situations in which, according to one State Department official, "the possibility of a tie to international terrorist activities" exists.

The official said, however, that if emergency circumstances exist the government can act more expeditiously.

In addition to Arabs the new regulations also affect nationals

of many other countries, including France, Germany and a number of Latin American nations where terrorism exists, State Department officials said. In the first weeks of the program, known as "Operation Boulder," the regulations even applied to persons known well and favorably to the U.S. embassy. That aspect of the program has now been eased, a State Department official said.

The new procedure requires that applicants be screened by U.S. agencies involved with security, including the FBI, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The screening was instituted after the attack on Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics and was put into effect at a time when an unusual volume of foreigners was visiting the United States. Beginning in September, meetings of the United Nations, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the International Monetary Fund were all held in the United States, a State Department official noted.

MUNICH OUTGROWTH

Arabs Screened For Visas to U.S.

By JEREMIAH O'LEARY
Star-News Staff Writer

A secret State Department program has required a stringent security screening of all ethnic Arabs or persons with Arab parents anywhere regardless of citizenship before visas will be issued to admit them to the United States.

The screening order code-named "Operation Boulder," was directed Sept. 8 by Secretary of State William P. Rogers to all U.S. consulates and embassies. It lays down rules of unprecedented rigor to be followed before any person of Arab birth or whose parents are Arab can receive a visa.

Operation Boulder is a direct outgrowth of the murder of 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics and is designed to protect Israelis in the United States from Arab terrorists.

Details of the security screening order as given in three Rogers cables to all American diplomatic posts on Sept. 8, Sept. 18 and Sept. 20, and the existence of Operation Boulder have not been disclosed but The Star-News has gained access to the State Department cables establishing the new policy.

The State Department officially has announced only that all foreign travelers would need visas after Sept. 27. And the Nixon administration earlier this month disclosed that the government is trying to identify Arabs already living in the United States through efforts of the FBI, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the State Department.

The existence of the Operation Boulder order came to light after several ambassadors to Washington, including some from Latin America, where there are many citizens of Arab origin, complained bitterly to the State Department about delays and security procedures dictated by the new program.

Latin America has many citizens either born in Lebanon, Syria or other Middle Eastern countries or whose parents and grandparents were born there. There are more than 40,000 of these people, called "Turcos" in Spanish, living in Mexico and significant numbers reside in countries such as Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and other Latin lands where they have become substantial citizens of the merchant class.

Rogers' first cable on Arabs' visas was sent three days after the Israeli athletes were murdered by a Black September terrorist gang. This Sept. 8 instruction and the other two cables are paraphrased by The Star-News to protect the code in which American confidential diplomatic messages are sent.

The Sept. 8 cable said that all U.S. posts were instructed to apply close screening to all Arab applicants for visas because of President Nixon's desire to protect Israelis in this country.

Rogers ordered that there be a "CAS" check of all applicants. "CAS" is a Washington euphemism for the Central Intelligence Agency. The initial cable said the close screening must also be applied to any others who might appear to be associated with terrorist organizations.

A longer cable sent Sept. 18 expanded on the instructions, probably because the United Nations General Assembly meeting was set to begin Sept. 19. In this message, Rogers again referred to the threat by Arab assassination groups against Israelis and ordered an immediate screening process to every Arab alien applying for any type of visa anywhere in the world. This included lesser diplomats and officials.

The message said that effective at once, every U.S. diplomatic post must clear every visa application with the State Department telegraphically and on a daily basis until further notice.

The diplomatic posts were told to caption each daily list

of ethnic Arab visa applicants under the code name of "Boulder" and to include a considerable body of information about each person. The order specified that in no case would an Arab alien be issued a visa before five working days after the clearance request was transmitted to Washington.

The Sept. 18 order evidently caused considerable confusion among U.S. diplomatic and consular officials around the world and on Sept. 20, Rogers sent a third cable which he said would respond to questions received in Washington from abroad. This message gave the following guidance:

It defined an Arab as any ethnic Arab born or whose parents had been born in a long list of countries regardless of present nationality or country of residence. The countries listed are, in alphabetical order: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, the Trucial States, Tunisia, Yemen and the United Arab Emirates.

Rogers said the only exemptions from Boulder procedures would be ambassadors, persons of officer rank or aides but stipulated that there would be no exemption from the security check for clerks, technicians, custodians, stenographers or students. The cable said there would be no exceptions even in the case of a person known well and favorably to a U.S. embassy.

Any ethnic Arab visa applicant, Rogers said in his instructions, should be subjected to Boulder procedure as well as local checks anywhere such aliens had resided for the past five years. All Arab applicants by consular officials, the order